Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An immunostimulant milk product obtained by a method comprising carrying out bioconversion on a milk substrate with the aid of a *Bifidobacterium* culture by bringing and keeping said substrate in contact with said culture[[,]] under conditions which are unfavorable to fermentation by *Bifidobacterium* and sterilizing and/or desiccating the milk product formed from the bioconversion to produce a milk product which does not include live *Bifidobacteria*.

2. (Previously Presented) The milk product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the milk substrate and the *Bifidobacterium* are brought into contact at the rate of 1×10^7 to 1×10^9 CFU per ml of milk substrate, and the final *Bifidobacterium* population at the end of the bioconversion reaction is 1×10^5 to 1×10^9 CFU per ml of product.

3. (Previously Presented) The milk product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pH of the milk substrate during the bringing into contact with the *Bifidobacterium* is 6.3 to 7 and the pH of the product at the end of the bioconversion reaction is 6 to 7.

4. (Previously Presented) The milk product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duration of contact between the milk substrate and the bacteria is 6 to 24 hours.

5. (Currently Amended) The milk product as claimed in clam 1, wherein ~~a~~ the *Bifidobacterium* culture ~~comprising~~ comprises the *Bifidobacterium breve* strain deposited on May 31, 1999, under number I-2219 at the CNCM~~, is used~~.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The milk product as claimed in claim 1, wherein its pH is 6 to 7.

8. (Original) A milk food obtained from a product as claimed in claim 7.

9. (Original) The milk food as claimed in claim 8, wherein its pH is 6 to 7.5.

10. (Original) The milk food as claimed in claim 9, wherein its pH is 6.5 to 6.9.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) An immunostimulant milk food obtained from the milk product of claim 1, wherein the milk food is dehydrated.

13. (Previously Presented) An immunostimulant milk food obtained from the milk product of claim 1, wherein the milk food is sterilized.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for increasing the resistance of a subject to infections, wherein said method comprises administering to said subject an immunostimulant milk product of claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 16, wherein said subject is an unweaned baby.